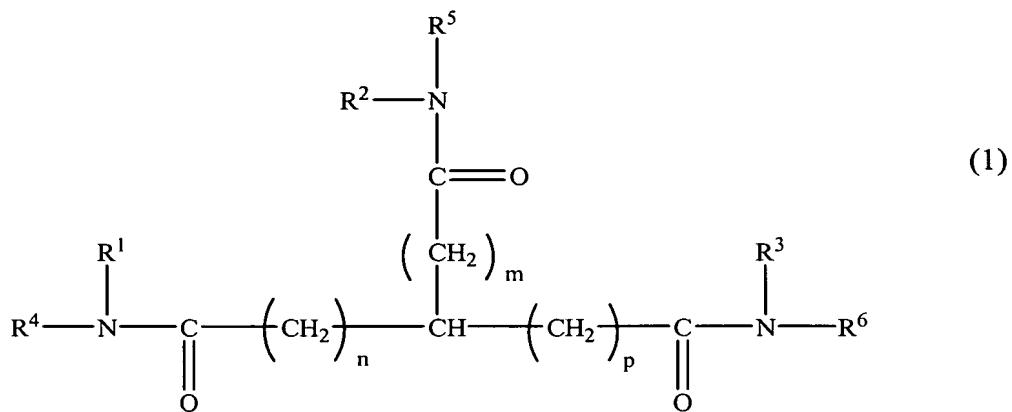


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): An amide compound represented by the following formula 1:



wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are each independently a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having a carbon number of from 1 to 3 with the proviso that at least one of R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> is a hydrogen atom; R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are each independently a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched hydrocarbon group having a total carbon number of from 6 to 24 which optionally has at least one group selected from the group consisting of an ether group, amide group, ester group, amino group and hydroxyl group; and m, n and p are each independently an integer of from 0 to 3.

Claim 2 (Original): The amide compound according to claim 1, wherein m, n and p of formula 1 are all different from one another.

Claim 3 (Original): The amide compound according to claim 1, wherein in formula 1 m is 2, n is 0 and p is 3.

Claim 4 (Original): The amide compound according to claim 1, wherein in formula 1 m is 1, n is 0, and p is 2.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A gelling agent comprising the amide compound as defined in ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1.

Claim 6 (Original): A gel composition comprising an oily base and the gelling agent as defined in claim 5.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An external composition comprising the amide compound as defined in ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A cosmetic preparation comprising the amide compound as defined in ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A fragrance composition comprising a fragrance and the amide compound as defined in ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1.

Claims 10-11 (Canceled).